FREIGHTLINER LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

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June 17, 2003

Supplement to 03V-277

Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report (FL411)

Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 2000 Freightliner and Sterling tractor models manufactured at Portland, Cleveland, Mt Holly and Santiago with between September 3, 1999 through April 14, 2003 with Jost JSK 37U series fifth wheels

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
DOSH, Legal Unit
10th Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Enclosure

Certified Mail Article Number:

Z 215 326 760

FREIGHTLINER LLC

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

June 17, 2003

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner, Sterling

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Freightliner and Sterling truck tractors
Manufacture Dates: September 3, 1999 thru April 14, 2003
Basis for determining population: Freightliner and Sterling tractors manufactured at Portland, Cleveland, Mt Holly, and Santiago with September 3, 1999 thru April 14, 2003 with Jost JSK 37U series fifthwheels
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Jost International Corp.	Gregory Lasman
P.O. box 327	(800) 253-5105
Grand Haven, MI 49417	recall@jostinternational.com

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: approximately 2000

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: Jost estimates 10%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: See attached Jost 573 Defect Information Report

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: See attached Jost 573 Defect Information Report

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: not applicable

(c)(8) Remedial program: Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately July 25, 2003

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-411

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On April 9, 2003 JOST International determined that a defect that could potentially affect motor vehicle safety exists in some of the components of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 (Defect and Non compliance Reports).

Date this report was prepared: April 15, 2003.

Furnish the Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

None, Not Applicable.

1. Identify the Full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. 30164.

Jost International Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Gregory A. Laarman P.E.
Vice President Engineering
Phone (616) 846-7700
Fax (616) 846-0310

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Gregory A. Laarman P.E.
Vice President Engineering

Signed:

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

The defect is contained in a component of some JOST- JSK 37 "U" Series Fifth Wheel Couplings. The defect has been identified as a fatigue crack that can initiate (under certain loading conditions) in the weld joining the mounting flange to the bracket pin (See figure 1 below). The recalled item is the bracket Pin. The bracket pin (Part Number SK 79011-03) is the component that joins the fifth wheel topplate to its mounting structure.

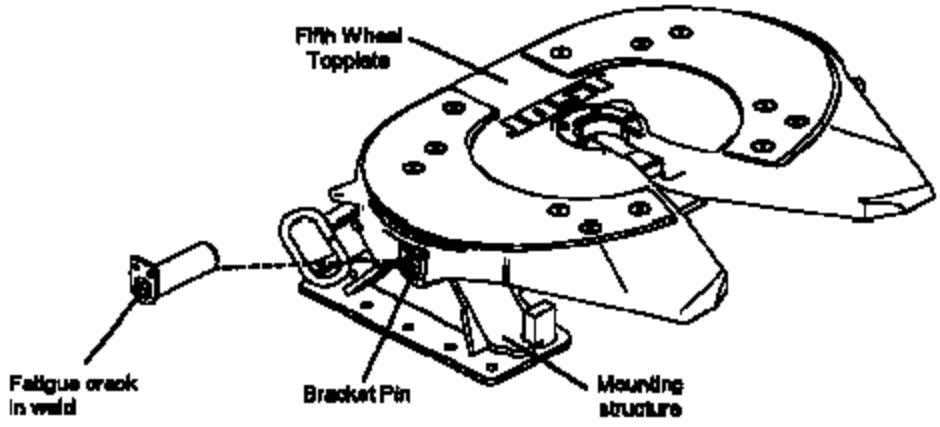

FIGURE 1

Generic Name of the Item: Bracket Pin

Make: Jost International JSK 37 "U" series Fifth Wheels Manufactured between Sept 3, 1999 – April 14, 2003

Model: 37 "U " series only.

Part Number: SK 79011-03

Size: Approximately 2 inches diameter X 7 inches long.

Function: The bracket pin connects the fifth wheel topplate to its mounting structure.

Other information which characterizes/ distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

See the distinguishing characteristics outlined in Item 8 below.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January1, 1996, through April 1. 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

The recall involves 100 % of all of the "U" Models produced with this pin design

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. **Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.**

Number of Items: 14,220

Model Years Potentially Involved: September 3, 1999 thru April 14, 2003.

Total Number Potentially affected by the Recall: 14,220

4. **Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or non- compliance:**

It is estimated that only 10 % of the recalled Items contain the potential defect.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

The recall population was determined to be 100% of the production of the models produced with this style bracket pin.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The defect is outlined in Roman numeral I. Above.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

A fatigue crack can develop in the weld under certain loading conditions.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

If left undetected or corrected it could lead to the separation of the fifth wheel topplate from its mounting structure.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

There are no warning signs.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not Applicable.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not Applicable.

IV Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/ Noncompliance

6. **With respect to the defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all of the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

Our first indication of a potential problem was an Inspection of a Jost JSK 37 "U" series fifth wheel mounted on a Strick Converter dolly. The dolly was owned by GI Trucking, and located in Orlando Florida. The inspection was conducted March 20, 2003. The inspection revealed that both bracket pins had separated from their flanges, but the driver was able to get the vehicle stopped without incident.

As a precaution, a temporary fix was developed to contain the known defect until a permanent solution could be implemented (see Attachment A to Item 9 below).

Inspection of additional Strick converter dollies, between March 20, and April 9 th revealed that other units contained this defect.

Additional customer units from other applications were polled, no defects were found.

Inspection of additional dolly/ fifth wheel units containing the defect was completed March 27. The defect was attributed to several minor factors working together to result in the failure.

Internal lab testing of a dolly fifth wheel unit was begun March 28.

Further analysis of the failure mode, in conjunction with lab test results, and inspection of other applications, led us to conclude that this failure could possibly occur in other applications given enough time and similar operating conditions. As a precautionary measure it was decided to recall all pins of this design.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the difference between the recall condition and the remedy.

The remedy is to replace the recall item with a pin of a new design. See figure 2 below. In addition to the difference in design, the recall item was painted black, while the **new replacement pin** is plated with Yellow Zinc Dichromate. This bright gold color plating should assist in readily identifying suspect units.

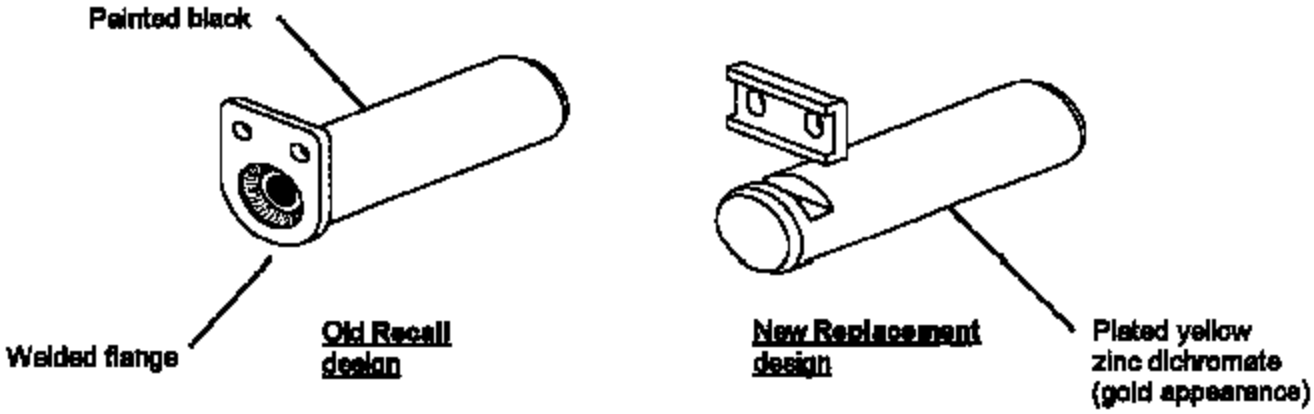

FIGURE 2

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The recall condition was corrected in production on April 15, 2003 using the same remedy as the field fix.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

OEM notification will begin by April 18. (see Attachment C in Item 9 below)

Dealer notification will begin as soon as any OEM responses are received. (see Attachment E in Item 9 below)

End user notification will begin as soon as they are identified. (see Attachment F in Item 9 below)

The only foreseeable difficulty is identifying 100 % of the end users.

VII Furnish Recall Communications

9.Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202) 366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

See the following Attachments:

Attachment A- Temporary Bracket pin repair procedures – LT SK37U-06B

Attachment B- Advance NHTSA Recall Notification Letter- Dated April 9, 2003.

Attachment C- OEM Recall Notification Letter- Dated April 18, 2003.

Attachment D- Bracket Pin Recall Information form- RC-002

Attachment E- Dealer Recall Notification Letter

Attachment F- Owner Recall Notification Letter

Attachment G- Bracket Pin replacement Instructions- LT SK37U-07 B

Attachment H- Bracket Pin Repair Record – RC-001